NURSING STUDENTS HAVE NEW OPTIONS

Under the new four-year plan, dual-enrolled nursing students will take summer classes at WMU while earning their associate degree from Kalamazoo Valley Community College. After graduating from Kalamazoo Valley and attaining their registered nurse (R.N.) certification, students will finish their Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.) at WMU in just one year. The four-year timespan is much shorter than the traditional path for nursing students.

“This agreement signifies in a real way that it’s all about students and their aspirations,” said WMU President John M. Dunn at the signing ceremony in August. “It’s about trying to find pathways to allow students to be successful!”

“It’s a milestone in the relationship between these two institutions,” said Dr. Dennis Bertch, executive vice president for institutional and student success services at Kalamazoo Valley Community College. “We’re working together to produce highly educated nurses to positively impact health outcomes in our communities.”

Bertch said the agreement provides Kalamazoo Valley nursing students and graduates with an alternative, yet flexible pathway to complete their B.S.N., thus meeting the ongoing employment opportunities available in the greater Kalamazoo community.

Bertch said the partnership exemplifies both institutional goals of providing a highly educated nursing workforce that will positively impact health care outcomes in the community. For many years, area nurses who attended Kalamazoo Valley, attained their R.N. certification, and joined the workforce for a number of years before going back to school for their B.S.N. In today's competitive health care market, most providers are looking for nurses who already hold bachelor's degrees. Registered nurses are often encouraged to go back to school for their bachelor's degree within only a few years of joining the workforce.

“We know that there is a shortage of prepared nurses across the state of Michigan,” said Dr. Earlie M. Washington, dean of the WMU College of Health and Human Services. “WMU and KVCC are working diligently to address that shortage. This plan will help produce more well-prepared nurses to meet the health care needs of West Michigan and beyond.”

Bertch said he looks forward to future opportunities to collaborate with other programs of study at WMU. “Over the last couple of years, Kalamazoo Valley has initiated a more structured process to better define articulation requirements for students transitioning to four-year universities,” Bertch said.

“WMU has been instrumental in this collaborative effort as we see this as a win-win for KVCC and WMU students. When one considers that about 50 percent of KVCC students transfer to WMU, it’s imperative that we make every effort to jointly meet their educational needs with minimal impediments along their journey.”

Students may apply to enroll at Kalamazoo Valley Community College at any time. The fall semester always begins in September, winter semester begins in January and summer semester begins in May. An online application is found at www.kvcc.edu/admissions. Contact the Admissions, Records and Registration Office at 269.488.4281 or email arr@kvcc.edu for assistance in applying to the college.

Applications for the fall nursing program are accepted during the first two weeks of April and are available in February through the second week in April. Applications for the winter nursing program are accepted during the last two weeks of September and are available in August and September. Applications are available at the Texas Township Campus Nursing Office (posted outside of Room 7426) or online at www.kvcc.edu/academics/nursing/applicationForm.html. The application period may be extended or reopened if needed to fill the class.

Students in the Kalamazoo Valley Community College culinary arts and allied health programs take their classes at the Culinary/Allied Health Building, where a new green wall stands front and center as a living, thriving symbol of sustainability and healthy living on the Bronson Healthy Living Campus. Measuring 30 feet high by 10 feet 8 inches wide, the 324-square-foot green wall was constructed with the LiveWall® system from LiveWall, LLC, the green wall subsidiary of Hortech, Inc., in Spring Lake, MI.

“The scope of the green wall, extending the full three-story height of the building, and its prominent position at the main entrance to the building serve to remind our students that they are preparing for careers focused on protecting and improving the health and well-being of our citizens and the sustainability of our communities,” said Mike Collins, executive vice president for enrollment and campus operations, Kalamazoo Valley Community College.

“The green wall is not an appendage to the building but an essential element. It doesn’t stand alone but connects to, and functions in relation with, other sustainable landscape features.”

Green walls transform ordinary wall surfaces into planted vertical gardens. That transformation from commonplace wall into vertical landscape adds a living, organic element to a building. Through the natural process of evapotranspiration, green wall plants release water vapor that cools the air, helping to naturally cool the buildings on which they are installed.

“The overall design goal for the Bronson Healthy Living Campus is to express and promote health, sustainable food, the environment and community,” said Rick Wordell, senior principal and design director, Eckert Wordell, part of the Arcadia Collaborative architecture team.

“The green wall symbolizes this goal and represents the meaning and purpose of the Culinary/Allied Health Building and the overall campus project,” D & D Building, Inc., of Wyoming, MI, erected the structure of the green wall in September 2015. It features 30 eight-inch and 255 16-inch LiveWall planter modules attached to an aluminum rail and mounting track system, which is affixed to the outside wall to secure the plants and integrated irrigation components. Hortech grew 500 plants over the winter in the LiveWall planter inserts so that the plants would be ready and ready for installation into the modular planters on the wall in May 2016.

Based on the east-northeast orientation and exposure of the wall, as well as the requirement of plants that can survive winter, the horticultural experts at LiveWall suggested a mix of six different plants, including Blue Wonder Catmint, Purple Bergenia, two varieties of Geraniums, and two types of Coral Bells. The wall design creates distinct blocks of color with flowers that bloom at varied times during the growing season.

“The green wall plant selection and placement produce a vertical landscape that is more naturalistic than formal,” said Collins. “That is in keeping with the design goals for the campus and complements other sustainable landscape features on the campus.”
When winter semester starts on Monday, January 9, students at Valley will find themselves a part of a vibrant and diverse community. In addition to students from Kalamazoo County, Brazil, China, and Bhutan, 2,823 students will be enrolled in college this year. A non-traditional student who re-enrolled in college last year to get back on the right track for achieving her goal, Camille White,매티-한국어 문화 구석에 소개

Camille White, enrolled in the Sustainable Food Systems program, is a non-traditional student who re-enrolled in college last year to get back on the right track for achieving her goal. Camille, who learned that the career she was interested in was not readily available in high school instead of going to work for her own benefit, had a change of heart. Brigham-Wright recalls, "She was the first black woman to graduate from the program. At the time, she thought nothing of it. "I was just doing what I had to do," she said. "I encountered some resistance when she started her job search. At one interview, she was greeted by the entire office staff. "They didn't exactly know what I was leaving behind when I was walking in," Brigham-Wright said. After that experience, she contacted Kalamazoo Valley Community College. Dan Kavanagh, who ran a dental office in Colorado for 27 years, was employed as a dental hygienist at the Family Health Center and the Stater Hospital. Brigham-Wright said the dental hygiene field was perfect for her when she was a young woman and it remained a source of joy until her retirement in 2010. Even after her retirement, the continued work part-time at the dental office, she continued to be involved in her children's lives. Brigham-Wright said, "I'm an educator, but I don't work in the classroom. I work working with people. Every place that I've worked, I've had some people follow me through periodontal treatment. "It's always something you can learn. I used to love going to different programs because I always got something new out of it." Brigham-Wright, 73, has held memories of Kalamazoo Valley. She recently returned to campus from her home in Detroit for her nephew's retirement ceremony. She has been involved in the Kalamazoo Valley College’s Wakend area, job-related educational programs. "You can go to work for two or three years and make good money. I'm not an advocate for eight or nine years of college. I think my children need you. There are a lot of two and three-year programs that are suitable for a person who has children. It certainly benefitted me." Brigham-Wright said she is an educator, but she doesn't work in the classroom. She is an educator, but she doesn't work in the classroom. She is an educator, but she doesn't work in the classroom. She is an educator, but she doesn't work in the classroom. She is an educator, but she doesn't work in the classroom.
A robot, CPR mannequin, farm animals and a restored '48 Chevy pickup will be among the hundreds of interactive exhibits under one roof as part of an experiential career investigation event November 1 and 2 for area eighth and ninth graders.

MiCareerQuest Southwest, sponsored by Kalamazoo Regional Educational Services Agency (KRESA), invites students from all nine Kalamazoo County school districts to talk with experts in a variety of fields while learning to operate and work with the actual tools, equipment and technology. Over 6,000 students are expected to attend the two-day event. More than 50 local businesses, industries and post-secondary partners – including Kalamazoo Valley Community College – will fill the Kalamazoo County Expo Center to showcase careers in the following career pathways:

- Arts & Communication
- Business, Technology & Human Services
- Engineering & Manufacturing
- Health Sciences & Natural Sciences

Kalamazoo Valley will be front and center with information and interactive displays in a variety of growing fields, including automotive technology, welding, Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning, Emergency Medical Technology, dental hygiene and respiratory care as well as some of its Career Academies.

“We are able to expose students to types of careers that they might not be exposed to anywhere else,” David Brock, an instructor in the Engineering, Design & Manufacturing Technology (EDMT) department at Kalamazoo Valley Community College said. “Very few middle or high schools offer industrial arts anymore but there is a growing need for people in the skilled trades.”

Brock and 10 members of the EDMT department will bring a welding simulator and CNC machinery for students to learn hands-on. Students will be able to use the machinery – competing against one another for precision and accuracy as well as designing their own small parts to take home from the event.

The College’s Career Academies, which include the Wind Turbine Technician Academy and the Mechatronic Technician Academy, will also have a presence at the event bringing a robotic arm that students can manipulate and wind turbine safety gear to try on, according to Ben Ash, program coordinator for the Groves Campus.

Career Academies, Ash explained, are skill-focused, employer-driven training programs that prepare students for in-demand jobs in growing and diversified industries.

Students aren’t the only ones who are able to experience MiCareerQuest Southwest. Parents are invited to attend November 1 from 5-8 p.m. to learn more about the Early/Middle College (EMC) program.

The EMC program allows students to earn a free associate degree or certificate by completing a five-year high school. Students delay high school graduation for one year while they take college courses at Kalamazoo Valley. Tuition and fees are paid by the local school district.

EMC expands on dual enrollment, and builds upon classes already offered through Education for Employment (EFE) and Education for the Arts (EFA). Students take courses at Kalamazoo Valley campuses, but may also take Kalamazoo Valley courses on their high school campus (in certain school districts), or through EFE and EFA. Programs are available in the following areas for the 2016-2017 school year:

- Transfer Degrees (62-63 credits)
  - Associate of Arts
  - Associate of Science
- Associate of Applied Science (62-72 credits)
  - Accounting
  - Administrative Assistant
  - Culinary Arts & Sustainable Food Systems
  - Graphic Design
  - IT Support Technician
  - Machine Tool Technology
- Certificates (30-32 credits)
  - Graphic Design
  - Machinist
  - Certificates of Achievement (10-18 credits)
  - Auto Brakes
  - PC Support Technician
  - Welding

On the evening of November 1, Dr. Deborah Coates, Kalamazoo Valley’s dean of instruction, Early/Middle College, will present information about the program and answer questions from families who may be interested in participating in EMC.

EMC, Coates explained, is designed to help students get a head start on whatever they decide to do after graduating from high school, whether that’s going into the workforce or continuing on with their education. “Education is evolving and this is part of it. Early/Middle College prepares students for the world and makes sure they have as many options as possible,” Coates said. “Early/Middle College is a great opportunity – academically and economically – for students in Kalamazoo County.”

For more information about MiCareerQuest Southwest, visit www.micareerquestsw.org.

For more details about EMC, visit www.kvcc.edu/earlycollege.